

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6097

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PA

SUBJECT: SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 242449; B) ASUNCION 4192; C) ASUNCION 4264

1. IN FURTHERANCE TO OUR EFFORTS TO INTEREST THE GOP IN ACCEPTING SOME REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, I SPOKE TODAY TO ICEM REPRESENTATIVE FOR URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, GUILLERMO CRUZ DUQUE, WHO JUST ARRIVED IN ASUNCION. HE PROVIDED ME WITH FURTHER DETAILS OF HIS APPROACHES TO GOP ON BELHALF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. HE CONFIRMED INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY OFFERED BY HIS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE (SEE REF C) THAT GOP REACTION BASICALLY NEGATIVE. ON BASIS HIS CONTACTS, HE BELIEVES THAT GOP WOULD ONLY GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPTING REFUGEES IF A) THEY ARE FARMERS, AND B) THEY WOULD FORM PART OF AN AGRICULTURAL COLONY ORGANIZED AND SUPPORTED FROM OUTSIDE PARAGUAY. ALTHOUGH IN VIEW REF A) IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THIS SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM US OR OTHER SOURCES. CRUZ DUQUE TOLD ME HE IS WILLING TO PURSUE MATTER WITH GOP AND HAS ARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS.

2. COMMENT: CRUZ DUQUE'S VIEWS COINCIDE WITH OUR EXPERIENCE AND ARE NOT VERY ENCOURAGING. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO TRY TO FIND OUT AS QUICKLY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY FARMERS AMONG THE GROUP

OF REFUGEES SEEKING RESETTLEMENT WILLING AND INTERESTED
IN RESETTLING IN THE SOMETIMES INHOSPITABLE PARAGUAYAN
COUNTRYSIDE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THIS INFORMATION.

3. AS YET FOREIRS MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY NOGUES
HAS NOT ADVISED ME OF GOP RESPONSE TO MY APPROACH ON
THIS SUBJECT. (REPORTED REF B).
LANDAU

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